

# Wall Street's Sugar Baby—Fulgencio Batista

By ART SHIELDS

**NOTHING CHEERS** a sick millionaire like news that the money is rolling in. And Secretary of State John Foster Dulles must have been comforted on his hospital bed by news that the prices of NICKEL—the jet plane metal—and SUGAR were booming. They were booming during the Suez war crisis. For NICKEL and SUGAR are choice tid-bits of the war profiteers. And Dulles is interested in both. . . .

Dulles is interested in NICKEL through the 400 million dollar International Nickel Corp. He was member of "Nickel" executive committee for 25 years. . . .

And Dulles is deep in SUGAR as a Wall Street banker and lawyer. The Schroder banking house of New York City controls two of the biggest sugar plantation firms, with 450,000 acres in Cuba. Dulles was an agent of this Anglo-German-American bank for decades.

And the Secretary's law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell was the bank's chief counsel and its go-between in international deals.

THE SECRETARY's brother—Allen W. Dulles, the Chief of the Central Intelligence Agency (Project X)—was in Cuban Sugar too. For Allan Dulles was a director of the Schroder bank, and a partner of Sullivan & Cromwell many years.

The SUGAR war boom was fantastic. The price of raw Cuban sugar, in which the Dulles brothers were interested, went up more than 50 percent on the island after the shooting began. The jump was from \$3.23 per 100 pounds on October 30 (before the shots began to fly) to a peak of \$4.95 on November 29.

The price has dropped a bit since the powers moved back from the war bank. It is \$4.70 per 100 pounds as I'm writing today. But it is still 46 percent above the price

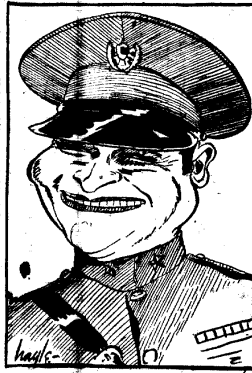
the Cuban-Wall Street magnates got before the Anglo-French-Israeli aggression began. And this rise will be passed on to the housewife, of course.

THE MANATI Sugar Co. and the Francisco Sugar Co. will profit immensely. These are the Cuban sugar giants that the Schroder bankers control, and that the law firm of Sullivan & Cromwell represents.

Dulles's Rockefeller backers will profit immensely too. For Avery Rockefeller is the chief American investor in the Schroder bank that controls the two firms. And Avery's cousin, David Rockefeller—a son of John D. Rockefeller, Jr.—is a director of another sugar giant. This is the Punta Alegre Sugar Co., with nearly 200,000 acres in Cuba.

THE CUBAN sugar cane cutters and grinders don't get this gravy, however. For the Cuban masses are terribly oppressed by the Batista dictatorship, which closely resembles Franco's. This dictatorship was set up in Havana with the help of Wall Street sugar planters. And hundreds of workers have been arrested, and scores of patriots murdered since General Fulgencio Batista came back to power four years ago.

THESE MURDERS are going



COL. FULGENCIO BATISTA

on faster this fall and winter. They are committed with American weapons. And the Dulles brothers must be laughing cynically as Batista's Ambassador to the United Nations—Nunez Portuondo—makes speeches about alleged "Genocide" in Hungary.

These speeches divert attention from the massacres in the Cadillac Cabinet's sugar colony today.

These massacres reached a new Hitlerite quality when Batista's police broke into the Haitian Embassy in Havana on October 29. The cops were shooting as they broke in. In several minutes they

apparent to many labor officials that the tranquil life many of them have led for some years in coming to an end. There is a growing trend of opposition to the "cult of personality" in many of our unions.

The pall of McCarthyism and cold war spirit is no longer strong enough to snuff out dissent or even active opposition. But there are also some very dangerous influences in the picture that falsely takes a "rank and file" cover and needs the attention of the labor movement.

THERE ARE two main trends in the rebellions we witness in the trade unions springing from sources diametrically opposed to each other—but they are fed by the same bureaucracy, disregard of the membership, opportunistic exploitation of union office and do-nothingism.

One tendency stems from progressive rank and fileism that has been traditional in American unionism for generations and has always been a dynamic element of every big advance by the labor movement. This is the tendency for democratization of unions and end of one-man rule; more service from them on the needs of the members; more vigor in fighting for grievances like speedup and rate-cutting; opposition to the fantastically high salaries for officers, like the \$50,000 a year for David J. McDonald, president of the steelworkers; rejection of the concept that big treasuries and full-timers are the basis of union strength.

But there is a trend that echoes outside anti-union propaganda. The influence of anti-union propaganda should not be underestimated. Large numbers of union members are new, and for years have had no more relation to their union than the dues-checkoff on their envelopes and receipt of a copy of the union's paper in the mails.

They absorbed a tremendous amount of poison through numerous channels, spread by the NAM and other employer outfits, picturing the union as a "monopoly."

murdered 10 anti-Batista leaders, who had sought asylum in the Embassy under the international custom of diplomatic sanction.

The victims were youths in their twenties. But their families could hardly recognize some of them the next day. For the cops fired bullet after bullet into their bodies until they were mutilated, almost beyond recognition.

PICTURES of these mutilated bodies were published in the Cuban Magazine "Bohemia" on November 11. The evidence was sufficient to drive Batista's Government out of the family of nations, had it been used. But not one word of protest came from Secretary Dulles or Under Secretary of State Herbert Hoover, Jr., the two imperialist exploiters who run the State Department today. Nor did Henry Cabot Lodge pay any attention to this murderous violation of the right of diplomatic asylum when he addressed the UN.

He was too busy crying out against those "16,000 Hungarian deportations," which didn't take place.

The killings went on. The United Press reported on December 2 that 40 anti-Batistas were slaughtered when they landed from a Mexican yacht on the Southern Cuban coast between the ports of Niquero and Manzanillo. They were literally blown to bits by bombing planes obtained from the United States.

Survivors fought back in two battles. Twenty-five more were said to have been killed. And a manhunt is on for the rest in the woods and hills of Eastern Cuba.

But the outcome of this latest people's movement, which is directed by Fidel Castro, the well-known anti-Batista leader, is still uncertain.

BATISTA first took power as a "liberal" in 1933. The butcher Machado—the darling of the sugar planters, who used to feed workers' leaders to the sharks in Havana Bay—had been ousted in a popular rising. His successor, a weak conservative named Cespedes, fell quickly. And Sergeant Batista, a former court stenographer, occupied the Presidential palace with a group of rebel army men behind him.

But Batista quickly proved to be another stooge of the sugar planters. He raided union headquarters in ruthless fashion. The planters' money began coming in. And Batista is said to be a millionaire many times over today.

The labor movement could not

be stopped, however. Nor the Communist Party, either. The Party's foots were deep in the toiling masses. Its press was eagerly read. And the Cuban Confederation of Labor, with the Party behind it, became the biggest mass movement in Cuba in the late 1930's and early 1940's.

BATISTA spread his sails to this popular breeze for awhile. He had been out of office several years. And when he came back he pretended to be a New Dealer at first. He went out again in the '40's.

But when he returned to power in March, 1952, it was in a fascist-like coup. He seized power by armed force from President Prío Sacarras, who had defeated his stooge Nunez-Portuondo in the election of 1948. And he followed the coup by raids on workers' headquarters and by mass arrests of workers' leaders. The Communist Party was outlawed soon after.

The coup was hailed by Wall Street at once. And Barron's financial weekly applauded the General in a cross-the-page headline which said: "Batista's Cuban Coup Sweetens Outlook for Sugar Industry."

BATISTA would put labor in its place, the Wall Street paper went on to say.

"It is suspected," said Barron's, "that the coup, though highly illegal, was not entirely repugnant to the U. S. State Department. . . ."

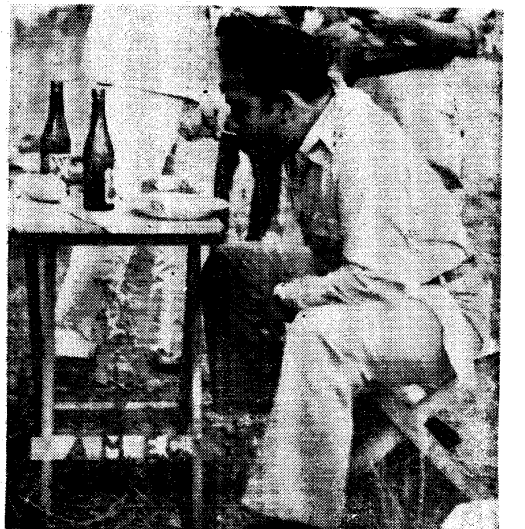
"It is an open secret that the sugar industry is pleased with the latest turn of events. The industry has lived with Batista before. . . . He is friendly to the United States. Perhaps, most of all, he can be expected to do something about the local labor unions. . . ."

Barron's then expressed its pleasure at Batista's first actions after the coup:

"The top labor leaders were ousted almost immediately. All civil rights were suspended for a period of 45 days, including the right to strike." Cuba was again in the hands of the planters' chief goon.

AND the Dulles brothers are happy in the sugar boom. But the Cuban people are not. And several bold Cuban Americans demonstrated in the gallery of the United Nations December 10 with banners denouncing Batista's Genocide. Hundreds more carried their protest to the doors of the Cuban Consulate in New York.

The fight for freedom in Wall Street's sugar colony cannot be crushed.



BATISTA makes a hasty lunch in camp just before the impeachment trial of former President Miguel Gomez, his political opponent. Batista was in control of the House and Senate, and facing an impeachment trial.

## WORLD OF LABOR

### 'Rebellions' Spreading In America's Unions

By GEORGE MORRIS

AMERICAN labor leaders who display great concern over events in Hungary are up against a steadily mounting spirit of rebellion in their own domain. It is not the kind of rebellion they can dispose of with a "red infiltration" charge.

To name a few of these rebellions. In the 1,200,000 member steelworkers a Dues Protest Movement against a raise of dues \$3 to \$5 monthly, is sweeping through many locals with a rank and file opposition slate for union office on the filed. In the auto union the leaders, their eyes on the situation in the steel union, are moving more cautiously for a raise of only 50 cents a month, but even they are encountering opposition in the locals.

The much stabilized century-old International Typographical Union just carried out a referendum vote in which a 50-cent per capita hike was voted down. In other unions the rebellion is over dissatisfaction with union handling of grievances that are steadily piling up, or resentment over official union "softness" towards employers.

IN SOME CASES the swivel chairs have been pulled from under officials who have come to regard their positions as lifelong. We have the interesting Schenectady story. Leo Landreau had an unimpressive career as head of the

eral Electric local of that city since the thirties—through the entire history of United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers as a left-winger and recently as a right-winger in association with James B. Carey of the IUE.

A "little man's" slate in the local's elections last week won 11 of the 12 offices at stake, with only Landreau himself surviving—with a majority of only 58 votes of more than 7,000 cast (assuming a machine reeled didn't change the result). Back of this rebellion has been a year or more during which hard work passed without "wildcat" stoppages over grievances snarled up in red tape, with Landreau kept more busy putting out fires than arguing over the issues.

Schenectady is a sample of what you'll find in hundreds of plants from coast to coast, with local officers usually on the spot before their members who expect them to do something more significant for the salaries they are collecting.

MIKE O'LELL, too, has been having rebellion trouble for some time in New York, main base for the Transport Workers Union. His contract is with the city. He has no union shop in the sense that unions have it in private industry, so the transport workers vote with their feet—by walking out of the union and rescinding dues checkoff authorizations.

Neglect of union problems and a callousness towards the feelings of the members, has also provided much ammunition to a assortment of splinters—some of which are more than splinters—and the union's authority and bargaining right in the field is threatened more seriously than ever.

